

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 AGR-10 CIAE-00

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R 211340Z AUG 75

FM AMEMDASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4268

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 1685

PASS AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR EAID MR

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN CEREALS OFFICE

REF: STATE 197170

1. MAURITANIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, MEETING IN NOUAKCHOTT AUGUST 12-13, APPROVED DECREE WHICH ESTABLISHED GIRM OFFICE MAURITANIEN DES CEREALES (OCM). STATED PURPOSE OF OFFICE IS TO PUT RATIONAL POLICY INTO EFFECT FOR REGULATING PRICES AND SUPPLYING INTERIOR MARKETS WITH BASIC CEREALS THROUGH THE CREATION AND MANAGEMENT OF BUFFER AND RESERVE STOCKS. BUFFER STOCKS ARE DESIGNED TO COMBAT ILLICIT CEREAL PRICE INCREASES. GOAL WILL REPORTEDLY BE OBTAINED BY PLACING SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES OF CEREAL ON MARKET AT INTERVENING AND PERIODICALLY FIXED PRICES WHICH ARE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF CONSUMERS. BUFFER STOCKS WILL REPORTEDLY ENCOURAGE PRODUCERS TO INCREASE THEIR PRODUCTION. OCM WOULD PROMISE, IN EFFECT, TO BUY ENTIRE MAURITANIAN CEREAL PRODUCTION AT FIXED (BUT PROBABLY FLUCTUATING) PRICE. THUS, PRODUCER NEED NOT FEAR HE WILL GROW CROPAUONLY
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TO DISCOVER THERE IS NO MARKET AT HARVEST TIME. GIRM

BELIEVES THIS ARRANGEMENT WILL INCREASE NATIONAL CEREAL PRODUCTION. RESERVE STOCK WILL BE CONSTITUTED AND MANAGED IN MANNER DESIGNED TO OFFSET ANY POSSIBLE DEFICIT IN NATIONAL PRODUCTION.

2. IN HIS REPORT BEFORE FOURTH ORDINARY CONGRESS OF PARTI DU PEUPLE MAURITANIEN (PPM) WHICH OPENED IN NOUAKCHOTT ON AUGUST 15, PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH ALSO MADE REFERENCE TO OCM AS INTEGRAL PART OF PROGRAM FOR COMBATTING FOOD SHORTAGES IN COUNTRY.

3. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT GIRM PLACES HIGH PRIORITY ON ESTABLISHMENT OF OCM. FACT THAT COUNCIL OF MINSTERS HAS APPROVED DECREE WHICH CREATES OFFICE AND PRESIDENT SINGLED OUT PROJECT IN HIS REPORT BEFORE PPM CONGRESS STRONGLY SUPPORTS THIS CONCLUSION.HANDYSIDE

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